

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 FREETO 02166 01 OF 02 111909Z
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EB-08 L-03 SS-15 INR-10 HA-05
OES-09 /063 W
-----091543 111931Z /46
R 101257Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7991

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 FREETOWN 2166

STADIS//////////

FOR S/P:LAKE AND AF:MOOSE

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ECON
SUBJ: FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

REF: STATE 164983

1. REFTTEL IS MOST WELCOME INDICATION THAT POLICY PLANNING STAFF IS CONSIDERING OUR ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA, PARTICULARLY THE SCOPE AND ROLE OF AID ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. WE SUPPORT STRONGLY THE VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS MADE IN THE DISCUSSION PAPER WHICH MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN OUR ASSISTANCE EFFORTS. FINALLY, WE URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO OVERHAUL AND STREAMLINE AID ITSELF. ITS ENTRENCHED BUREAUCRACY AND RED TAPE ARE A CONTINUING SOURCE OF FRUSTRATION AND DISMAY TO WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD.

2. THE MANDATE - WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL EMPHASIS ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, WHICH IN PRACTICE ALMOST INVARIABLY MEANS THE RURAL POOR, WAS WELL INTENTIONED. ITS EFFECT, HOWEVER, IS TO REMOVE FROM OUR CONSIDERATION PRACTICE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 FREETO 02166 01 OF 02 111909Z

TICALLY ANY OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE URBAN POOR. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THOSE SIERRA LEONEANS WHO LACK THE MOST BASIC OF HUMAN NEEDS -- SHELTER, FOOD AND WATER -- ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE THE POOR CITY DWELLERS. HERE IN FREETOWN, THE NATION'S CAPITAL, HOUSING IS COMPLETELY INADEQUATE. SHANTY TOWNS AND URBAN SLUMS PROVIDE RUDIMENTARY SHELTER; THE MAJORITY OF THE CITY'S INHABITANTS LIVE IN UNSANITARY AND OVERCROWDED CON-

DITIONS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO PERIODIC DESTRUCTION BY FIRE AND THE OMNIPRESENT THREAT OF DISEASE. WHILE THE RELATIVELY MODERN WATER SYSTEM SUPPLIES POTABLE WATER TO THE URBAN POOR AT THE COMMUNITY SPIGOT, THE SEWAGE SYSTEM IS A REMNANT OF THE LAST CENTURY AND GARBAGE COLLECTION IS HAPHAZARD AT BEST. FOR WANT OF GARBAGE TRUCKS, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS REDUCED TO BEGGING THE LOAN OF TRUCKS FROM BUSINESSES (AND THE EMBASSY*) FOR ITS PERIODIC CLEANUP CAMPAIGNS, ON THE OTHER HAND, GIVEN THE FERTILE LANDS UP-COUNTRY, THE DIET OF A RURAL FAMILY IS PROBABLY SUPERIOR TO THAT OF THEIR CITY COUNTERPARTS AND THEIR HOUSING LESS CROWDED AND MORE SANITARY. MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE IN FREETOWN ITSELF IN THE WAY OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS BUT WE ALMOST INVARIABLY RUN INTO THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEM WHEN WE THINK OF SUCH ASSISTANCE. FIRES ARE A BIG PROBLEM HERE BUT THE CITY'S (300,000 POP.) FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS ONLY TWO RPT. TWO VEHICLES IN ONE CENTRAL STATION. IN A RECENT PERSONAL APPEAL TO THE AMBASSADOR, THE FIRE CHIEF AND HIS TOP STAFF MADE A MODEST REQUEST FOR TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND FOR A UTILITY VEHICLE. AS THE WRITTEN STATEMENT THEY PRESENTED POINTS OUT SO SIMPLY, "--- PLEASE PERMIT US TO THANK THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH YOU FOR ALL THE ASSISTANCE RENDERED THIS OUR BELOVED COUNTRY SO FAR. WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT YOUR SLIGHTEST ATTENTION IN THE FIRE FORCE WILL SURELY SOLVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THIS EMERGENCY SERVICE". THE AMBASSADOR HAD NOTHING TO GIVE. ONE FURTHER POINT ON THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE; AID/AFR SEEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 FREETO 02166 01 OF 02 111909Z

TO HOLD AN EVEN NARROWER INTERPRETATION THAN OTHER GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WITH AID. AFR SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO LOOSEN UP.

3. IMPORTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS - ORIGINALLY OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WERE BASED UPON THE PREMISE THAT ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE IS INTEGRAL TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IRONICALLY, NOW THAT AID'S EMPHASIS IS DIRECTED TOWARD THE POOREST NATIONS MOST IN NEED OF INFRASTRUCTURE THESE PROJECTS ARE SHUNNED. SIERRA LEONE CONTEMPLATES TWO MAJOR HYDRO-POWER PROJECTS. BOTH WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES AND ONE MEETS THE CRITERIA OF PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION. DESPITE THE FACT THAT SIERRA LEONE CANNOT MEET THE COST OF ENERGY IMPORTS NEEDED FOR DEVELOPMENT, BOTH THE BUMBUNA AND MANO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS FALL OUTSIDE OF OUR ASSISTANCE CRITERIA. OUR EXCLUSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS MEANS LIMITING PARTICIPATION OF AMERICAN BUSINESS IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. NATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FUNDED THE MANO RIVER BASIN FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND CONSTRUCTION FINANCING IS EXPECTED TO COME FROM THE SAME SOURCES, AS A RESULT ONLY EUROPEAN FIRMS WERE CONSIDERED IN COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AWARD. THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PREVIOUS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE MANO RIVER UNION ACKNOWLEDGED THE

SUPERIORITY OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO-ELECTRICITY. IF OUR ASSISTANCE RATIONALE COULD BE STRETCHED TO ENCOURAGE THE FUNDING OF AT LEAST FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, AMERICAN FIRMS WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO COMPETE. EUROPEAN COMPANIES ARE FAVORED DUE TO THE AVAILABILITY OF TIED DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. MORE IMPORTANTLY A GREATER AMOUNT OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AS LARGE AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE OFTEN ABLE TO OBTAIN CONSTRUCTION FINANCING ON THE BASIS OF THEIR FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 FREETO 02166 02 OF 02 102325Z
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EB-08 L-03 SS-15 INR-10 HA-05
OES-09 /063 W
-----078943 111931Z /46

R 101257Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7992

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 FREETOWN 2166

STADIS//////////

FOR S/P:LAKE AND AF:MOOSE

4. BOTTLENECKS TO EQUITABLE GROWTH (TRANSPORTATION) - THROUGH AN AID GRANT CARE HAS CONDUCTED A SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR FEEDER ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IN THE HINTERLAND. THE WORLD BANK HAS REQUESTED THAT AID PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCING OF A HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE UNIT WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS. AID'S PART OF THE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE WOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD THE UPKEEP OF FARM TO MARKET ROADS, THEREBY COMPLIMENTING NOT ONLY OUR OWN EFFORTS BUT THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DONORS. AID/WASHINGTON BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE VERY UNLIKELY TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND NO FURTHER ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED.

5. BHN DEMANDS UPON RESOURCES - EMPHASIS UPON AGRICULTURE WHILE VALID AND NECESSARY IS BEGINNING TO EXHAUST THE LIMITED TECHNICAL AND CAPITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND HAS INITIATED A

MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN THE NORTH, THE IDA HAS TWO LARGE INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND CONTEMPLATES A THIRD, THE UNITED NATIONS, THE CHINESE, BRITISH, AND GERMANS ALSO PROVIDE THE MINISTRY WITH A VARIETY OF SERVICES. CONTINUED CONCENTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS WITHIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 FREETO 02166 02 OF 02 102325Z

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WILL DECREASE ITS ALREADY LIMITED ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS EFFECTIVELY AND TO MEET COUNTERPART REQUIREMENTS. IN SUM, INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL AND SKILLS MUST BE DEVOTED TO INTEGRATED RATHER THAN SECTORIAL DEVELOPMENT.

6. EXPANDING U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL COST FINANCING - IF OUR ASSISTANCE IS TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS STRATEGY THEN WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SHARE A GREATER PORTION OF LOCAL COSTS. BHN PROJECTS REQUIRE MORE LOCAL RESOURCES THAN GLAMOROUS AND OFTEN MORE POLITICALLY PALATABLE PROJECTS. WE MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT BHN IS AN AMERICAN, NOT AN AFRICAN PRIORITY. THE HAVANA DECLARATION UNDERLINES THIS POINT.

7. CONCENTRATION IN EXPORTS - THE SIERRA LEONE PRODUCE MARKETING BOARD WHICH IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARKETING OF THE NATION'S EXPORT CROPS HAS APPROACHED THE MISSION FOR ASSISTANCE. WHILE WE HOPE TO PROVIDE TRAINING THROUGH AID AND ICA GRANTS, THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF OUR EFFORT IS LIMITED BY THE BHN CRITERIA. THE BOARD IS ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF CASH CROPS AND REDUCE DEPENDENCE UPON COFFEE AND COCOA THROUGH EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ARE VITAL TO THE NATION'S GROWTH. THUS A WELL DESIGNED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FITTED TO THE NEEDS OF THE BOARD WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE, PARTICULARLY AS THE BOARD HAS THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY AND COUNTERPART RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR COMPETENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

8. MANPOWER SHORTAGES - WE COULD AND SHOULD DO MUCH MORE IN TECHNOLOGY TRAINING BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO TRAIN PEOPLE WHOSE SKILLS CAN BE USED AS SOON AS THE TRAINING IS COMPLETED. THERE IS NOT POINT IN TRAINING PEOPLE WHO WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 FREETO 02166 02 OF 02 102325Z

HAVE NO JOBS TO GO TO OR WHOSE SKILLS ARE TECHNICALLY FAR AHEAD OF THE TECHNOLOGY NEEDS OF THEIR COUNTRY. I HAVE NOT BEEN IMPRESSED, IN THIS REGARD, BY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MANY U.S. DOMESTIC AGENCY SPECIALISTS IN WORKING ABROAD UNLESS

THEY ALREADY HAVE OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE.

9. MINI STATES -- MINI MARKETS - NOE OF OUR POLICY GOALS IS TO SUPPORT SIERRA LEONE'S PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ECOWAS AND THE MANO RIVER UNION. IN THE LATTER CASE, BOTH THE PRESENT AND FORMER SECRETARY-GENERALS HAVE SOUGHT U.S. ASSISTANCE. AS YET, EXCEPT FOR MINIMAL INFORMAL TECHNICAL ADVICE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS.

10. AID - ALTHOUGH GOVERNOR GILLIGAN INDICATED LAST YEAR THAT HE INTENDED TO OVERHAUL AID, NOTHING PRECEPTIBLE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DONE. FROM THE FIELD IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AID. SPEECHES ABOUT MORE AID FOR AFRICA ARE FOLLOWED BY STRICTURES ON SPENDING. A NOTICE ABOUT A REDUCTION-IN-FORCE IS FOLLOWED IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS BY AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A MAJOR RECRUITMENT EFFORT FOR ALL KINDS OF POSITIONS IS UNDERWAY. SOMETHING IS CLEARLY WRONG. ADDITIONALLY, THE RED TAPE AND BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS INVOLVED IN GETTING A PROJECT UNDERWAY ARE FORMIDABLE. AT EVERY GET-TOGETHER OF AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MUCH TIME IS SPENT IN SWAPPING AID HORROR STORIES. IT IS VITAL, ABSOLUTELY VITAL, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OVERHAUL AND STREAM-LINE THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IN ITS PRESENT FORM IT HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS.
LINEHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978FREETO02166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780284-0133
Format: TEL
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780780/aaaacpql.tel
Line Count: 250
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b68ae378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SP
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 164983
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2073019
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA
TAGS: ECON, US, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b68ae378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014